
IMMUNIZATIONS

Required immunizations are considered routine medical care. Children in foster care due to abuse, neglect, or delinquency must be up to date on immunizations according to the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) Immunization Schedule](#).

The caseworker must review the information provided on the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). If a review of MCIR indicates a child's immunizations are not current every attempt should be made to contact former medical providers to verify the information on MCIR. If, after a thorough review, it is determined the child is not current on immunizations, action must be taken to begin a schedule of catch-up immunizations as determined by a medical provider.

Exception: It is strongly recommended that children in foster care receive influenza and COVID-19 vaccines as recommended by the CDC, but they are not required for temporary court wards.

Note: If a temporary court ward becomes a state ward, it is expected the state ward will receive all vaccinations recommended by the CDC, including any missed vaccinations. The child's primary care physician will determine a schedule for administration of missed vaccines.

The child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) should be involved in all decisions about immunizations.

IMMUNIZATION DOCUMENTATION

Documentation of a child's immunization status includes the following:

- MCIR record.
- CareConnect 360 immunization record.
- Certified nonmedical waiver from local health department.
- Parental objection to immunizations statement.
- [DCH-0713, State of Michigan Medical Contraindication Form](#), or a valid physician medical exemption statement with the information found in the DCH-0713, State of Michigan Medical Contraindication Form.

Documentation must be entered and uploaded into the documents section of the electronic case management record Health Profile.

**IMMUNIZATION
WAIVERS**

Michigan Administrative Code R 325.176 requires that children must be current on certain immunizations to enroll in:

- Kindergarten.
- Seventh grade.
- A new school district.
- A licensed childcare, preschool, Head Start program, or group camp.

Prior to attending the above programs, the following immunizations must be up to date:

- Hepatitis B (HepB).
- Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis (DTaP/Tdap).
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib).
- Pneumococcal conjugate (PCV13).
- Inactivated poliovirus (IPV).
- Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR).
- Varicella (VAR).
- Hepatitis A (HepA).

Caregivers will be asked to supply proof of a child's current immunization status at enrollment. Caregivers of children who are not current due to a medical exemption or the parent or guardian's religious or philosophical objection will be asked to provide the appropriate waiver at enrollment.

**Medical
Contraindication**

The DCH-0713, State of Michigan Medical Contraindication Form, or valid physician immunization exemption form containing the same information as in the DCH-0713, State of Michigan Medical Contraindication Form, is required to document a child's medical exemption from one or more required immunizations.

**Certified
Nonmedical
Waiver**

Parents or guardians who object to immunizations for religious or philosophical reasons must contact the local county health department to schedule an appointment for the nonmedical waiver

education sessions and obtain the required certified waiver. For children not enrolling in the programs or grades listed above, the nonmedical waiver from the previous year is acceptable.

If a completed immunization record, medical contraindication, or a certified nonmedical waiver form are not provided at registration or enrollment, the child in the specific groups listed above may be excluded from school or childcare, unless the child is in a dose waiting or provisional period. Local school districts may have more stringent immunization requirements.

Note: A school cannot deny immediate enrollment of a student who is in foster care based on a lack of immunization documentation; see [FOM 723, Educational Services](#).

Caseworker Role

For parents or legal guardians who have a religious or philosophical objection to immunizations for their child who will be entering one of the settings or grades affected by administrative rule, the assigned caseworker must:

- Provide the parent(s) with information on obtaining the nonmedical waiver; see [Information for Parents/Guardians: Nonmedical Waiver Rule for Childhood Immunizations](#).
- Assist the parent(s) in obtaining the certified nonmedical waiver, such as by providing or arranging transportation or assisting with scheduling the appointment, so the child may participate in school.

Court Involvement

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) does not have the authority to circumvent a parent's right to refuse to immunize their child. A court order is necessary to immunize a child whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) has refused to have their child immunized based on a religious or philosophical objection.

If the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) refuses to immunize their child as required in the administrative rule and does not obtain a waiver from the health department within seven business days of refusal, the assigned caseworker must document efforts by the department or agency to assist the parent and petition the court to obtain a remedy.

PARENTAL OBJECTION TO IMMUNIZATIONS

For children who do not fall into the categories noted in Michigan Administrative Code R 325.176, but whose parent(s) or legal guardian(s) opposes immunizations for religious or philosophical reasons, a written, signed, and dated statement documenting the parent's objection to each specific immunization being refused is required. The parental objection statement must be updated annually.

Note: A foster parent, relative caregiver, or court-ordered unrelated caregiver may not prohibit immunizations of a child placed in their care based on religious or philosophical grounds.

LEGAL BASE State Law

Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.9205

Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.9208

Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, MCL 333.9215

Michigan Administrative Code

Communicable and Related Diseases R 325.176

Immunizations required of children attending group programs or entering school.

POLICY CONTACT

Questions about this policy item may be directed to the [Child Welfare Policy Mailbox \(Child-Welfare-Policy@michigan.gov\)](mailto:Child-Welfare-Policy@michigan.gov).